

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for classifying and counting leukocytes comprises the steps of: (1) adding to a hematological sample the following fluorescence-labeled antibodies labeled with fluorescent dyes which emit fluorescences distinguishable from each other; (a) a first fluorescence-labeled antibody (1st antibody) which bonds specifically to leukocytes, (b) a second fluorescence-labeled antibody (2nd antibody) which bonds to at least one kind of neutrophilic cells, and (c) a third fluorescence-labeled antibody (3rd antibody) which bonds to at least one kind of immature granulocytic cells, in order to stain leukocytic cells in the sample, and removing erythrocytes from the sample; (2) analyzing the resulting sample using a flow cytometer to measure at least one scattered light signal and three separate fluorescence signals; (3) defining a group of granulocytic cells on the basis of intensity of the scattered light and intensity of fluorescence from the 1st antibody; (4) defining neutrophilic cells in the defined group of granulocytic cells on the basis of the intensity of the fluorescence from the 1st antibody and intensity of fluorescence from the 2nd or 3rd antibody; (5) classifying the defined group of the neutrophilic cells into groups of neutrophilic cells different in degree of maturity on the basis of the intensity of the fluorescence from the 2nd antibody and the intensity of the fluorescence from the 3rd antibody, and counting the number of cells in each of the groups.